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Over forty U.S. citizens are being tortured and starved in Castro's prison dungeons in Cuba, according to witnesses who testified in secret,

closed-door hearings before the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Most of these prisoners were American engineers and technicians who had been employed by American business firms in Cuba and never participated in political or revolutionary activities. They are simply held as hostages to trade for Castro spies and saboteurs in the U.S. The State Department is only making token representations to get these Americans released through the Swiss Embassy in Havana.

Several of these American prisoners have died as the result of beatings, malnutrition and lack of medical attention. In fact, the Americans receive *no* medical attention and are not allowed to receive medicines and supplies from the outside, nor are the International Red Cross representatives allowed to inspect their dungeons, where they live in filth and sleep on damp rock floors. They are being tortured with electric rods and lighted cigarette butts and some have been mutilated.

One American held in the dungeon of San Severino Castle, Major William Howard, a pilot who tried to rescue a Cuban Army Colonel in his plane, was shot in the leg. He was allowed to receive no medical attention, was beaten and tortured with electric shocks and finally he was blinded. Howard was transferred to La Luisa prison. The Swiss Ambassador in Havana has verified that twenty American prisoners are still alive. It is not known how many have died. Castro claims the Americans are all CIA spies; he makes this phoney claim in order to barter for his own spies who are caught in the U.S.

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